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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUPPLEMENT

SUBJECT Proposed Changes in Food  
Distribution for Russian Zone

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1. During the SED party convention in Berlin, SED Land leaders and a number of upper echelon employees of the SED Central Organizational Committee were summoned to a closed, confidential meeting with Maxim Kabanov, chief of the economic section of SMA. He informed the SED representatives that SMA planned to arrange food distribution in the Russian Zone on an entirely different basis by the end of 1947.
2. The primary changes are to consist in:
  - a. Abolition of free remainders (Freie Spitzen), meaning that food remaining above delivery quotas will not be left at the producers' disposal but will be subject to seizure and rationing. Food thus obtained will be made available for community messes in factories, schools, etc.
  - b. Extension of the system of community messes until it becomes the basis for feeding the working population. The main agencies for feeding will be the messes attached to factories, public services, schools, etc., and for food distribution the food cooperatives (Lebensmittelverteilergenossenschaft).
3. Kabanov stated that the goals of the new system were tighter control of work dodgers and closer integration of the working masses, offering better opportunities for educating them in Socialism.

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